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CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

EAST GERMANY ORGANIZING MILITARY CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the originating intelligence components of the Office of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

Army review(s) completed.

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EAST GERMANY ORGANIZING MILITARY CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES

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25X1 [redacted] information on the organization, training, and equipment of civil defense battalions in East Germany. The first civil defense battalion, [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] is located at Potsdam. 1/ The second battalion is established in Neustaedtel, 2/ and another is being built up at Schneeberg/Erzgebirge. These air defense (Luftschutz) battalions are under the Civil Defense Command (Kommando Luftschutz), which is subordinate to the Ministry of Interior. Future plans call for additional battalions to be activated near other industrial centers.

Air defense battalions will be employed after air raids--primarily in urban industrial areas--for: decontamination of areas after CBR attacks, rescue operation, fire fighting, and the clearance of roads and highways. The secondary mission of the first battalion at Potsdam is to train NCO's for use as cadres in the formation of new battalions.

In October 1959, [redacted] four companies and a staff were included in the first battalion.* The first company was an Engineer Training unit; the second, a Chemical Training company; the third, a Technical company; and the fourth was not yet organized, but it was planned as a Chemical Reconnaissance and Atomic Survey unit. 25X1

The police-type uniform of the battalion is khaki with collar tabs of wine red with a blue border. Officers of the first battalion wear a Roman I on their collar tabs. 3/ Recruits are enlisted for a period of three years. Members of the battalions are armed and are given both basic military and specialized training. 4/ Although full equipment had not been issued to the first battalion in October 1959, a number of vehicles and weapons were on hand.**

East Germany is the fourth Soviet Bloc country to organize civil defense battalions. As far back as 1954, special civil defense troops were reported in Czechoslovakia. 5/ Since that time, similar battalions have been formed in Hungary and Poland. As the European Satellites generally follow the USSR in civil defense practices, there is reason to suspect that similar organizations have been prepared in the USSR.

The East German civil defense battalions are in an early stage of organization, but their formation tends to support the view that the civil defense program in East Germany is rather more than propaganda to impress the population with the evil intentions of West Germany and its allies. Popular-level civil defense training, the installation of an air-warning system, and a program of shelter construction are also under way in East Germany.

*See Table 1 for Reported T/O.

**See Table 2 for Reported Equipment List.

11 August 1960

CIA/RR CB 60-42

Page 2

SECRET

SECRET

TABLE 1

First Air Defense Battalion, Potsdam

Reported Table of Organization
(October 1959)

1. Battalion Staff
 - a. Commanding Officer (1)
 - b. Deputy Commanding Officer (1)
 - c. Chief of Staff (1)
 - Assistants to Chief of Staff (4)
 - Drafting and clerical personnel (3)
 - Secretary (1)
 - Finance (2)
 - Training and Schooling personnel (2)
 - Personnel section (2)
 - d. Political and Sport Officers (5)
 - e. Rear Services
 - Chief of Rear Services (1)
 - Motor personnel (18)
 - Weapons personnel (2)
 - Medical personnel (3)
 - Kitchen personnel (15)
 - Clothing personnel (2)
 - Shoemaker (1)
 - Tailor (1)
2. Four companies, (24 officers, 60 non-commissioned officers, 432 enlisted men) each with:
 - a. Officers (5)
 - Commanding Officer (1)
 - Political Officer (1) /probably assigned from Battalion Staff/
 - Platoon Leaders (4)
 - b. Non-Commissioned Officers (15)
 - First Sergeant (1)
 - Equipment Sergeant (1)
 - Motor Sergeant (1)
 - Sergeant, Squad Leaders (12)
 - c. Other Enlisted Men (108)

SECRETTABLE 2First Air Defense Battalion, PotsdamReported Equipment
(October 1959)1. Reported Vehiclesa. 3rd Company

- 1 Tatra Primemover 90 PS
- 6 Trucks
- 2 Diesel Compressors (Trailers)

b. Battalion

- 46 Trucks
 - 1 Ambulance
 - 1 Low-boy Trailer
 - 2 Refrigeration Trailers
 - 2 Amphibian Trucks
 - 6 Flatbody trailers or dumptrailers
 - 6 Decontamination trucks
 - 1 Excavator on treads
 - 4 Fire trucks with hose*
 - 2 Fire trucks with power units for pumping*
 - 6 Trailers for hoses
 - 2 POL trucks
 - 1 Van (Radio) Garant
 - 1 Jeep
 - 1 Sedan Wartburg

(Besides the mobile equipment listed above, there are 12 portable generators--electric or gasoline fed--stored at the Battalion's maintenance shop.)

2. Weapons

Rifles	1 per enlisted man
Submachine guns	3 per squad
Pistols	1 per officer and first sergeant

25X1

 all fire trucks can be used to decontaminate areas.

11 August 1960

CIA/RR CB 60-42

Page 4

Next 7 Page(s) In Document Exempt